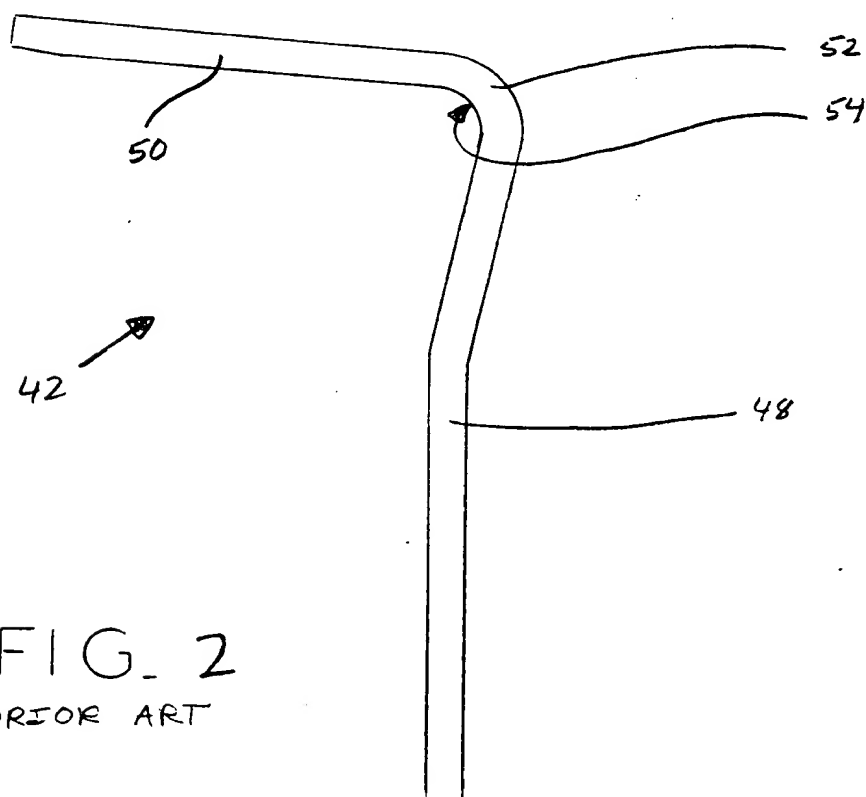


FIG. 1  
PRIOR ART

This diagram illustrates a prior art method for securing a fixation device (44) to a bone (40). The device is held in place by a series of sutures (46a-f) that pass through the bone and are tied to a central point (48). The bone is shown in cross-section with hatching, and the surrounding tissue is indicated by a dashed line (47). A reference numeral 60 points to the bone, and 58 points to the tissue. An arrow (52) indicates the direction of force or movement. The device (44) is shown as a rectangular block with a textured surface. The sutures (46a-f) are shown as lines passing through the bone and the device. The central point (48) is where the sutures converge. The reference numeral 40 points to the bone, and 42 points to the surrounding tissue. The reference numeral 46a-f points to the individual sutures. The reference numeral 47 points to the tissue. The reference numeral 48 points to the central point. The reference numeral 52 points to an arrow. The reference numeral 58 points to the tissue. The reference numeral 60 points to the bone.



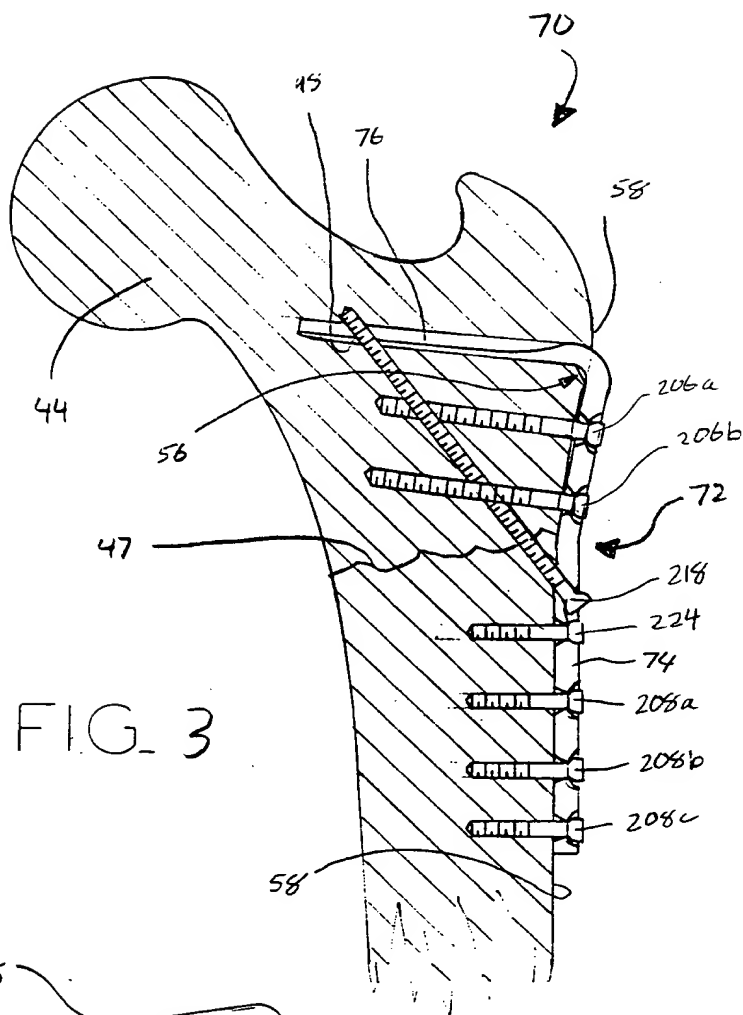


FIG. 3

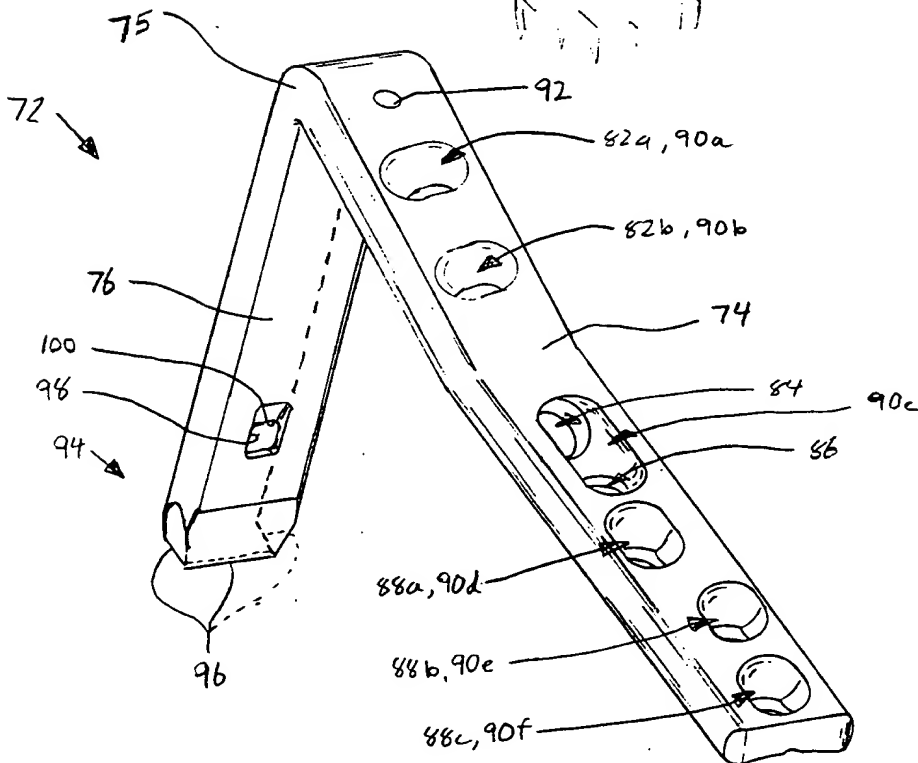


FIG. 4

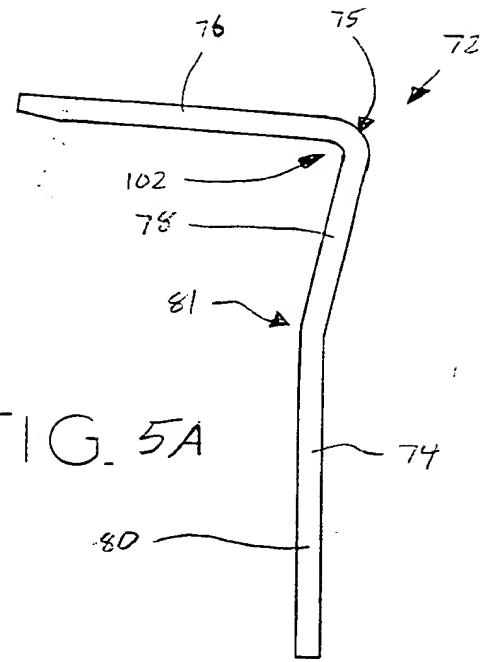


FIG. 5A

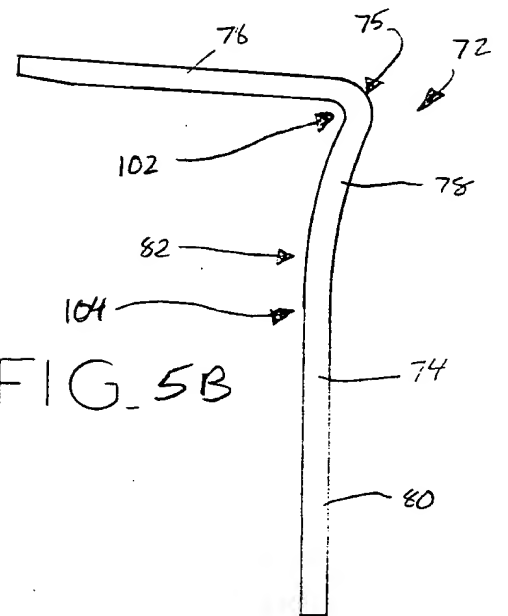


FIG. 5B

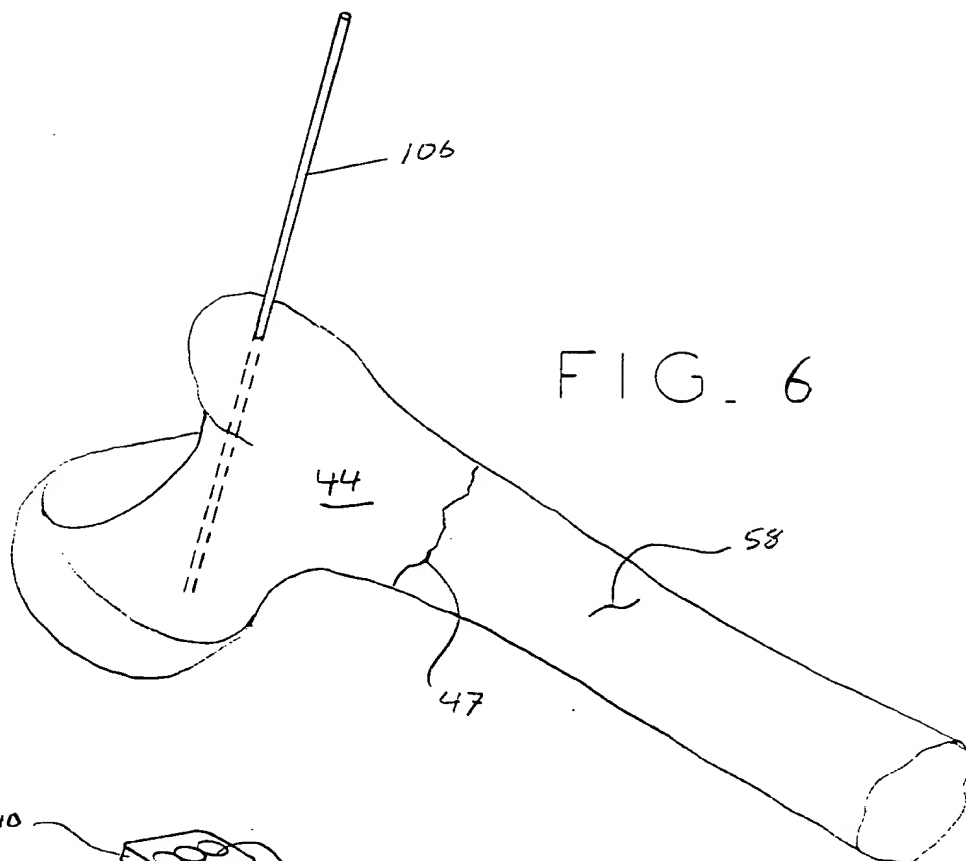


FIG. 6

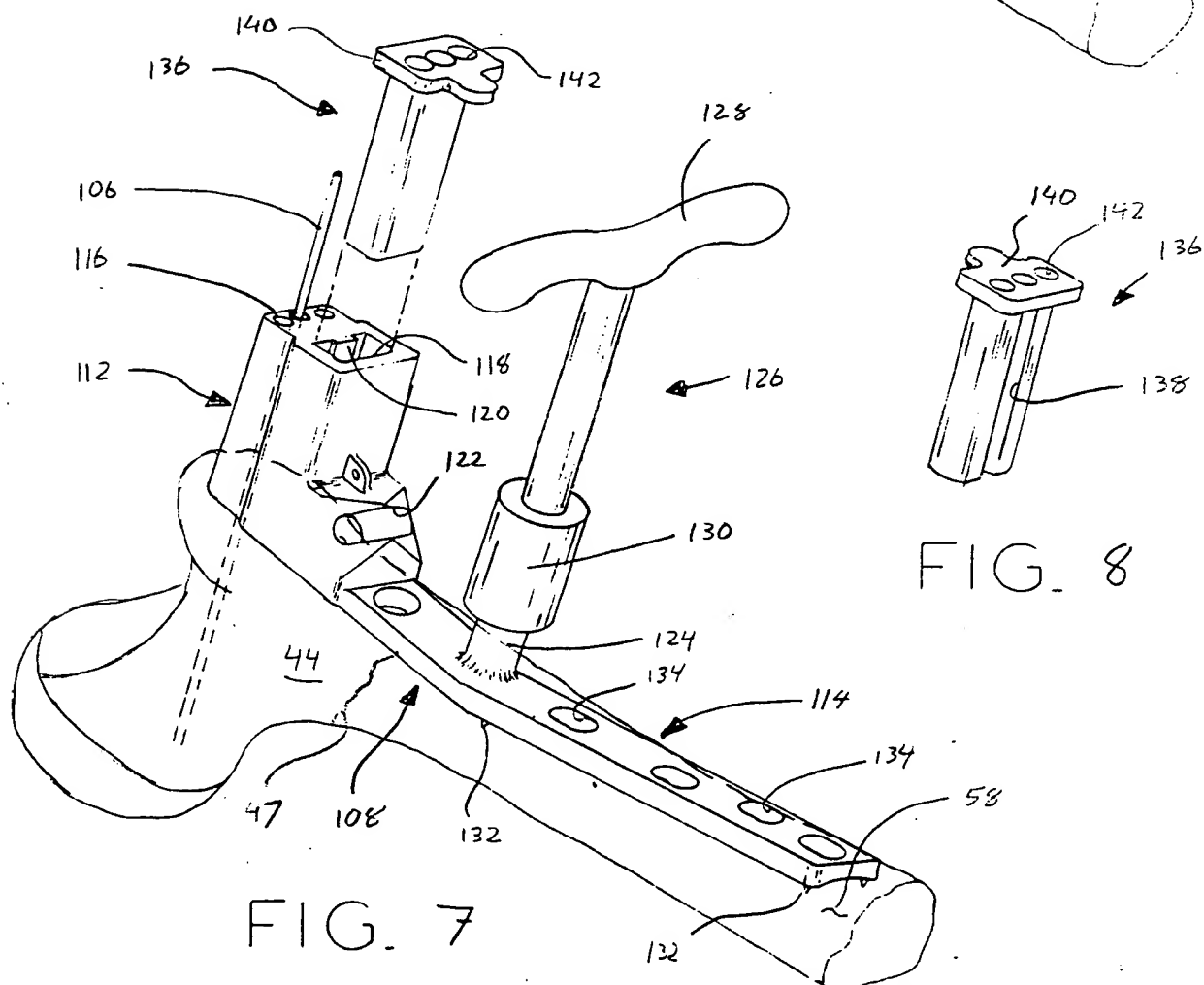
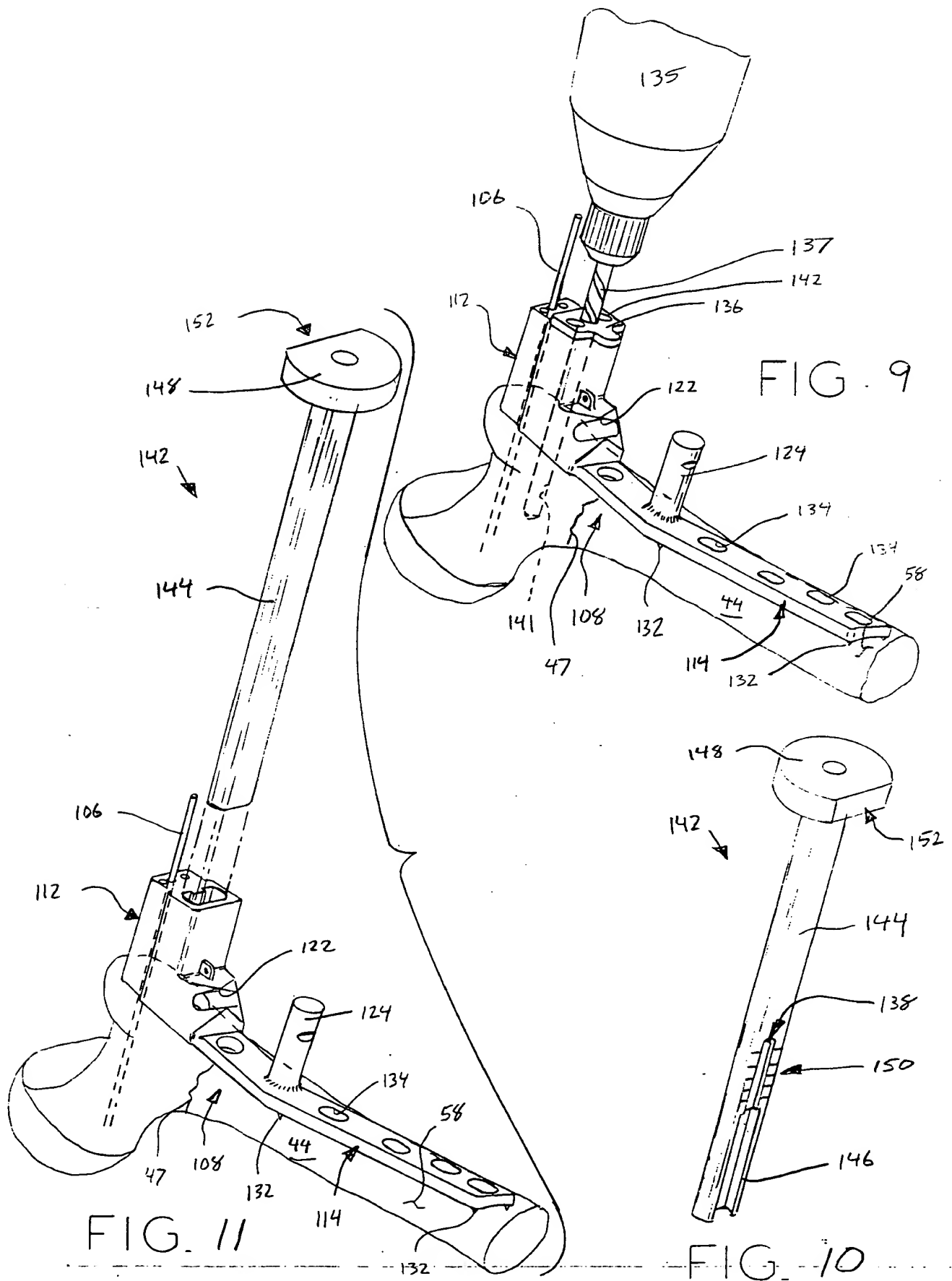


FIG. 8



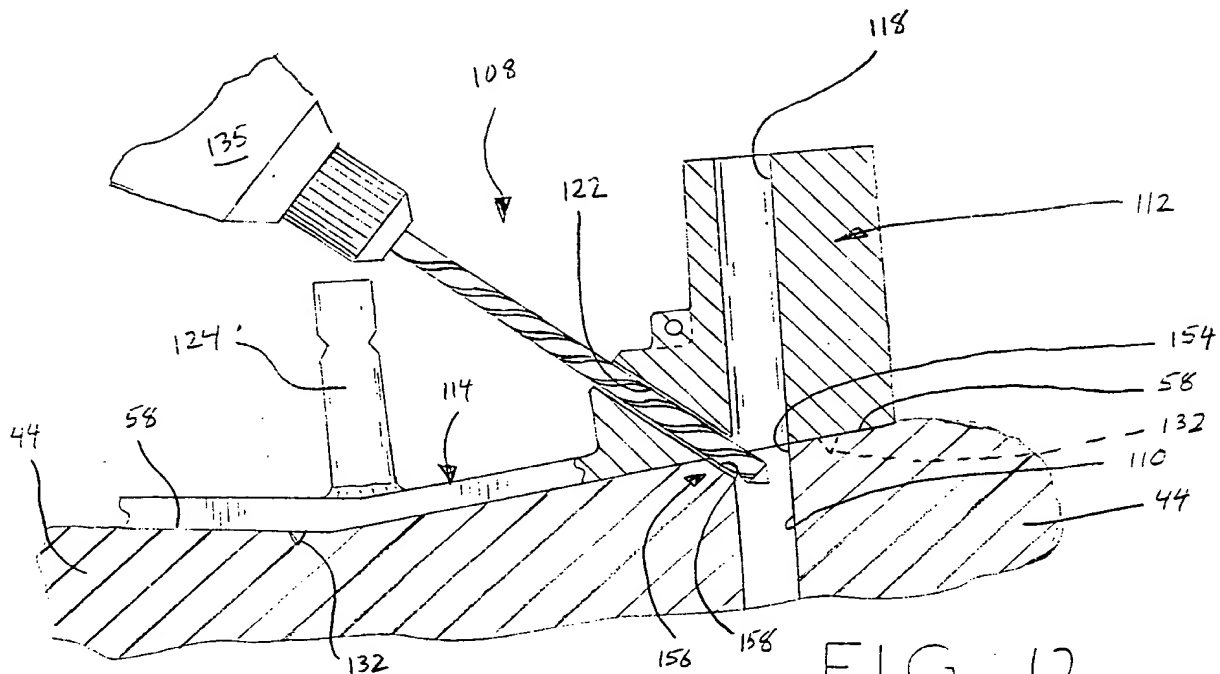


FIG. 12

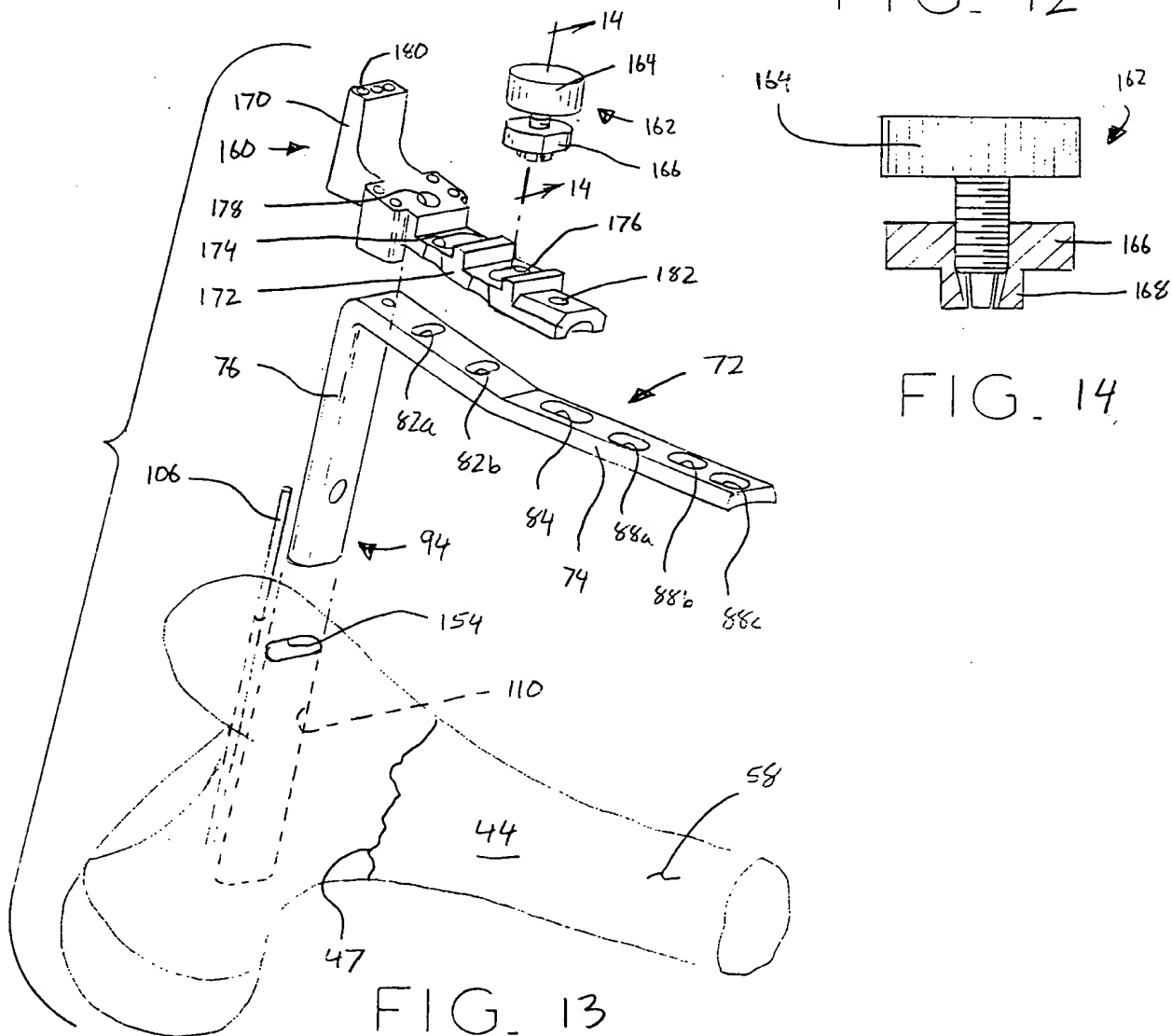


FIG. 13

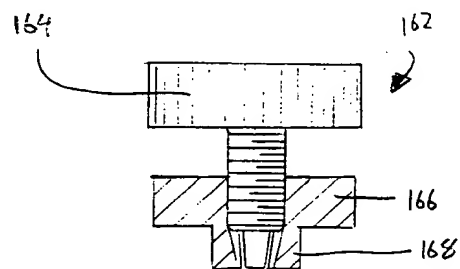


FIG. 14

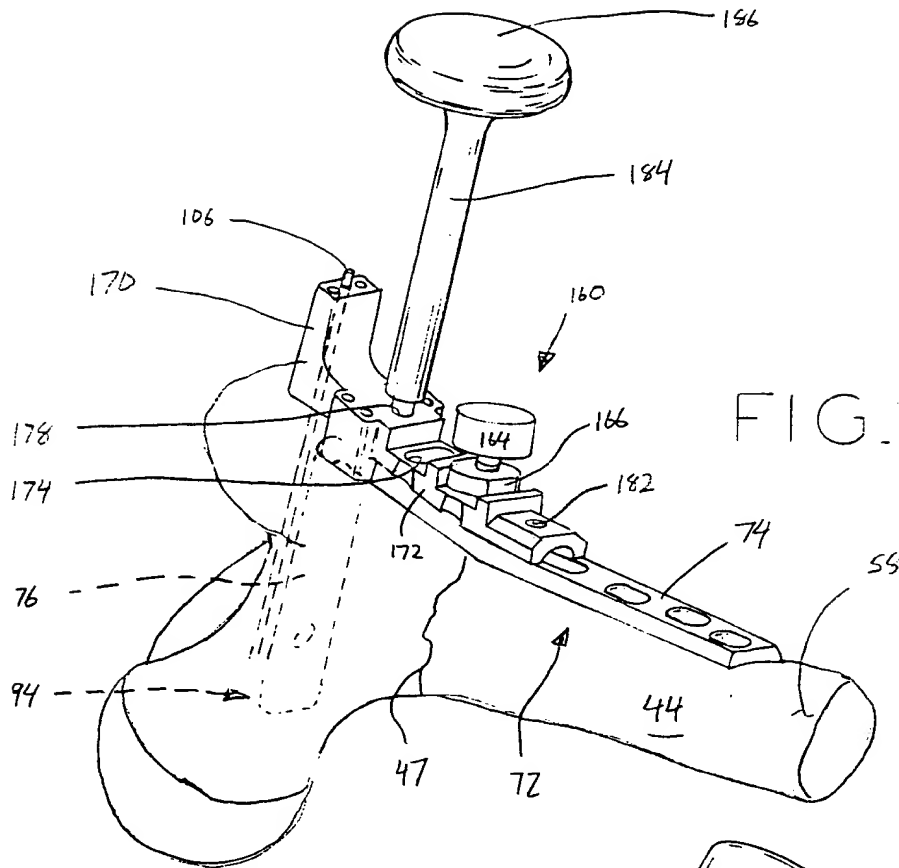


FIG. 15

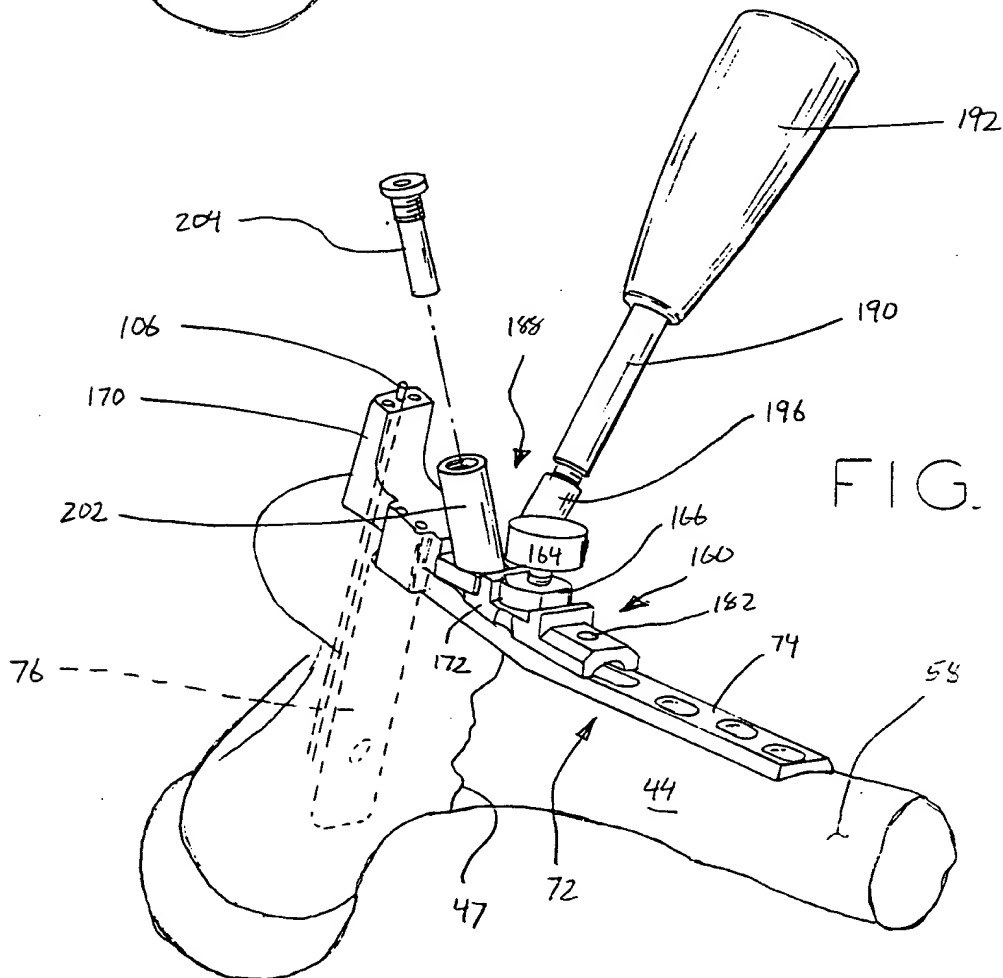
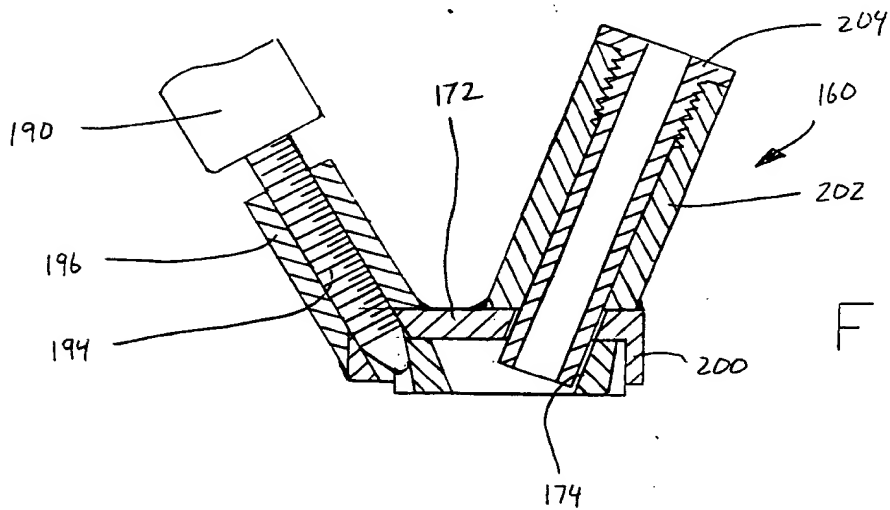
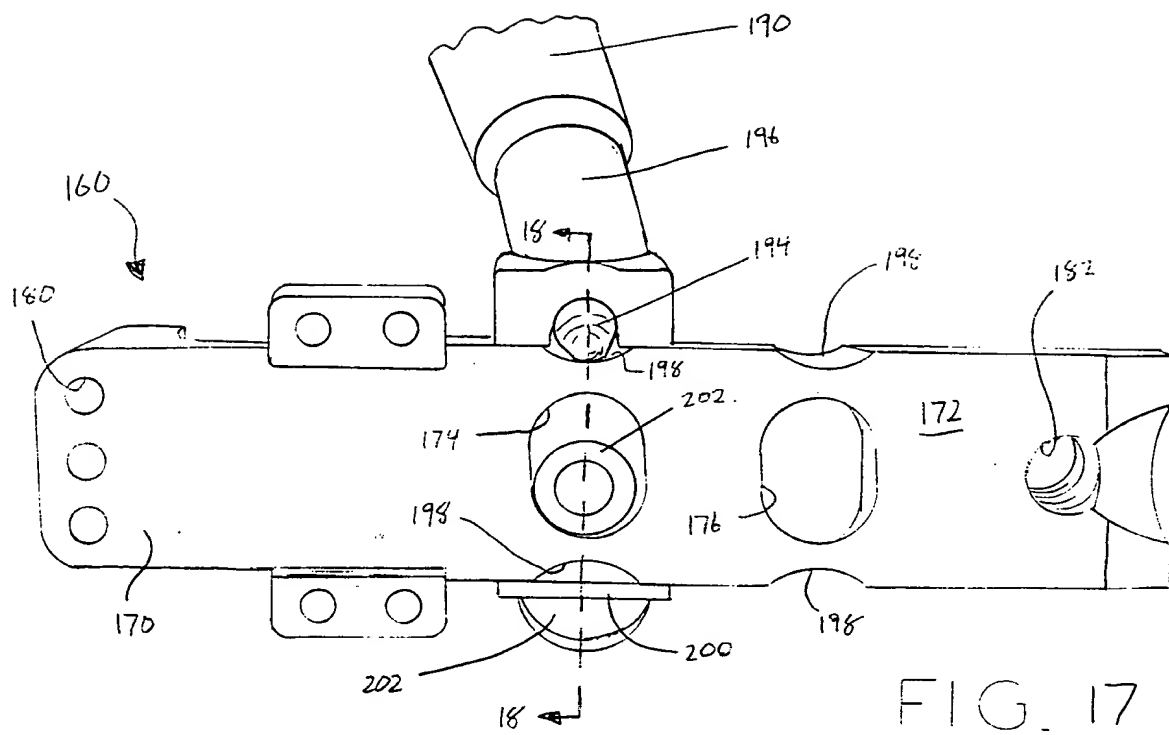


FIG. 16

0939412.082401



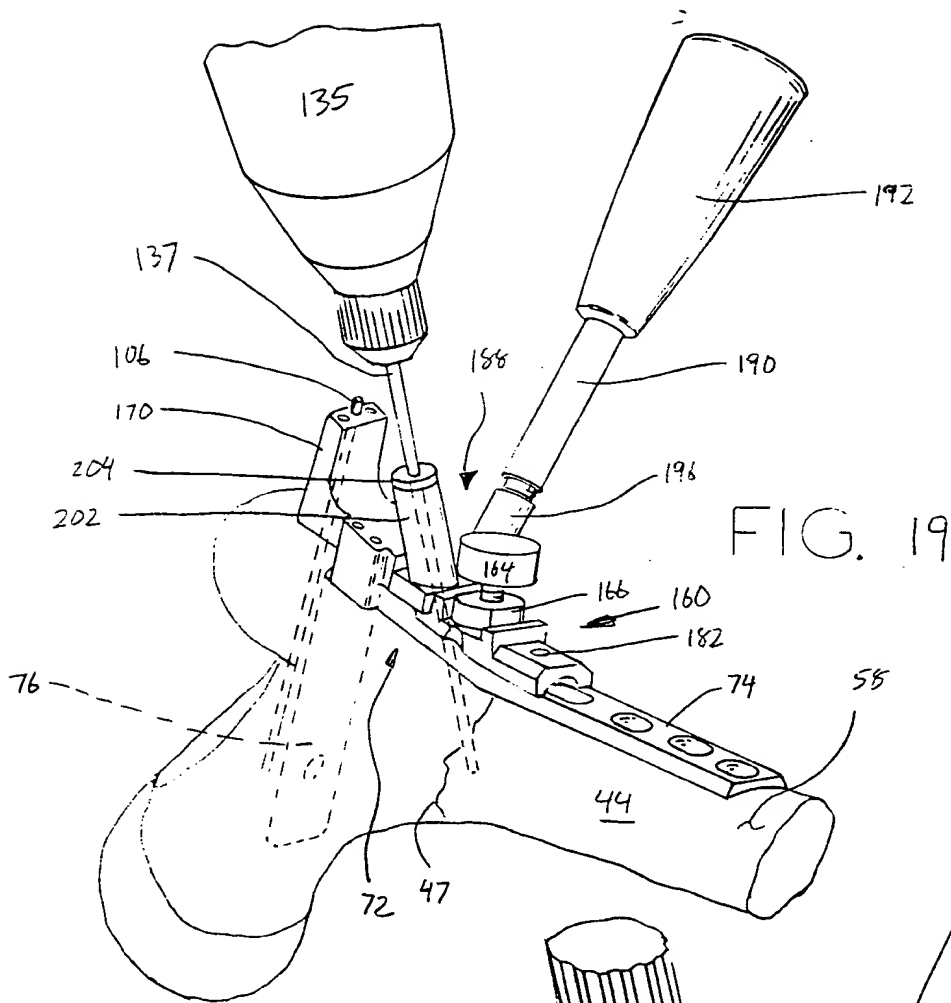


FIG. 19

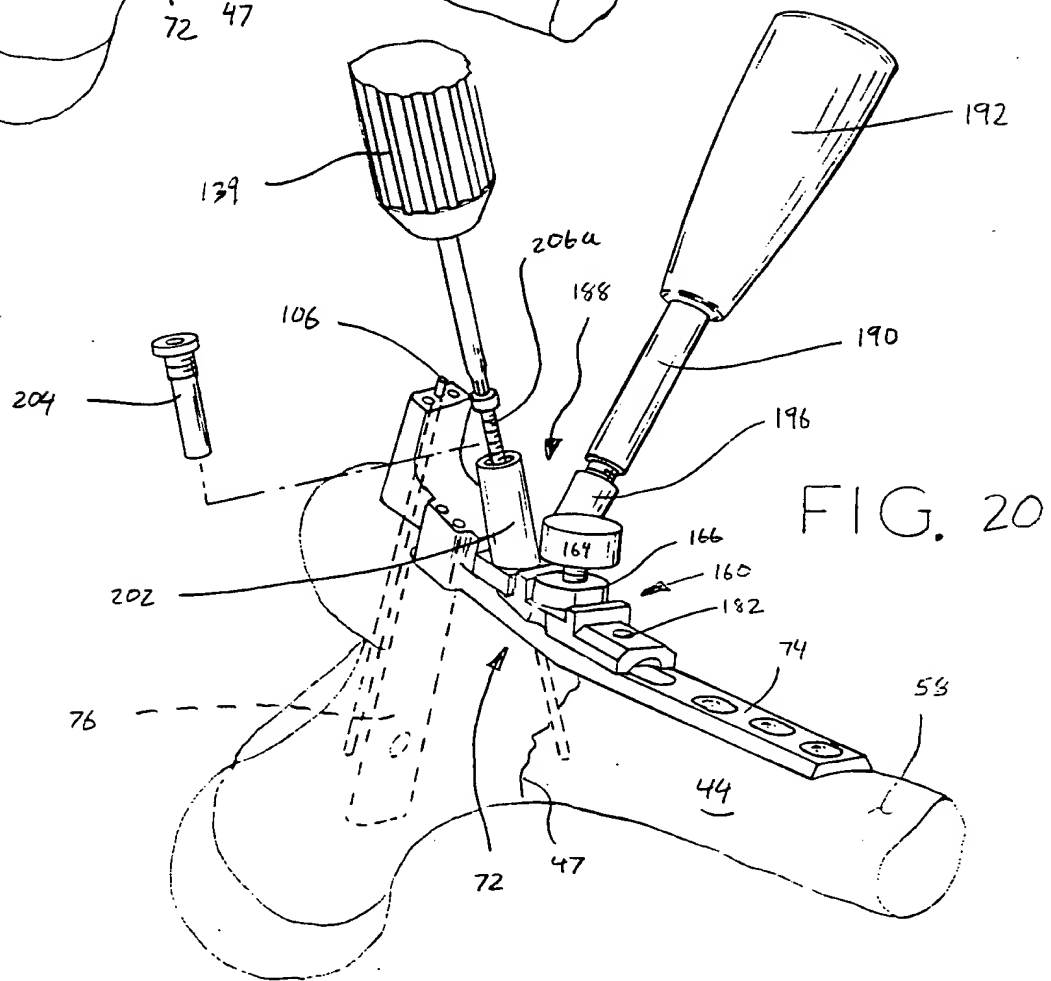


FIG. 20



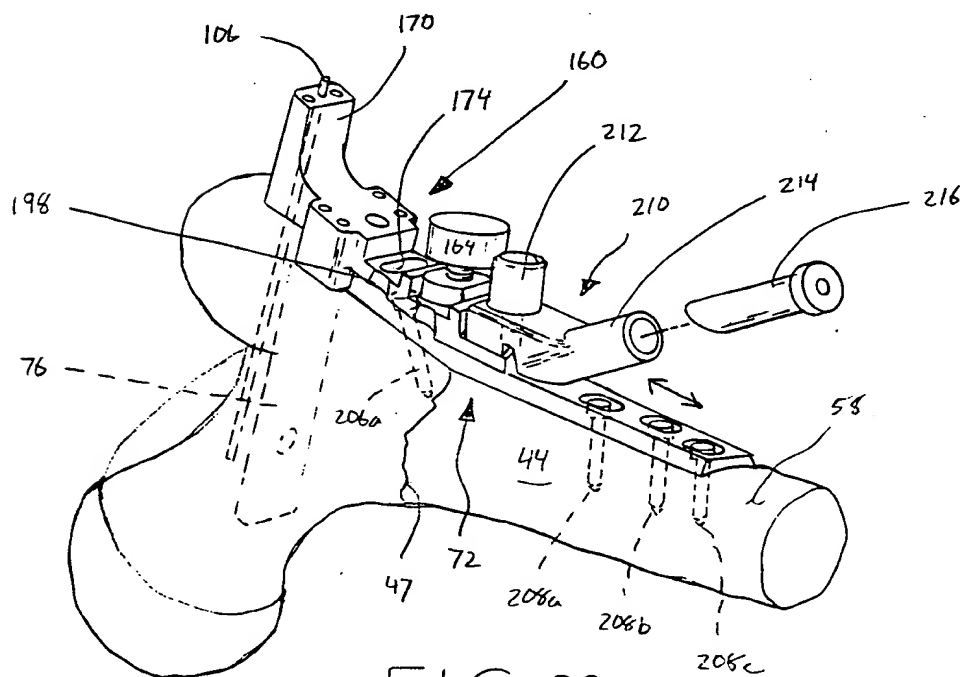
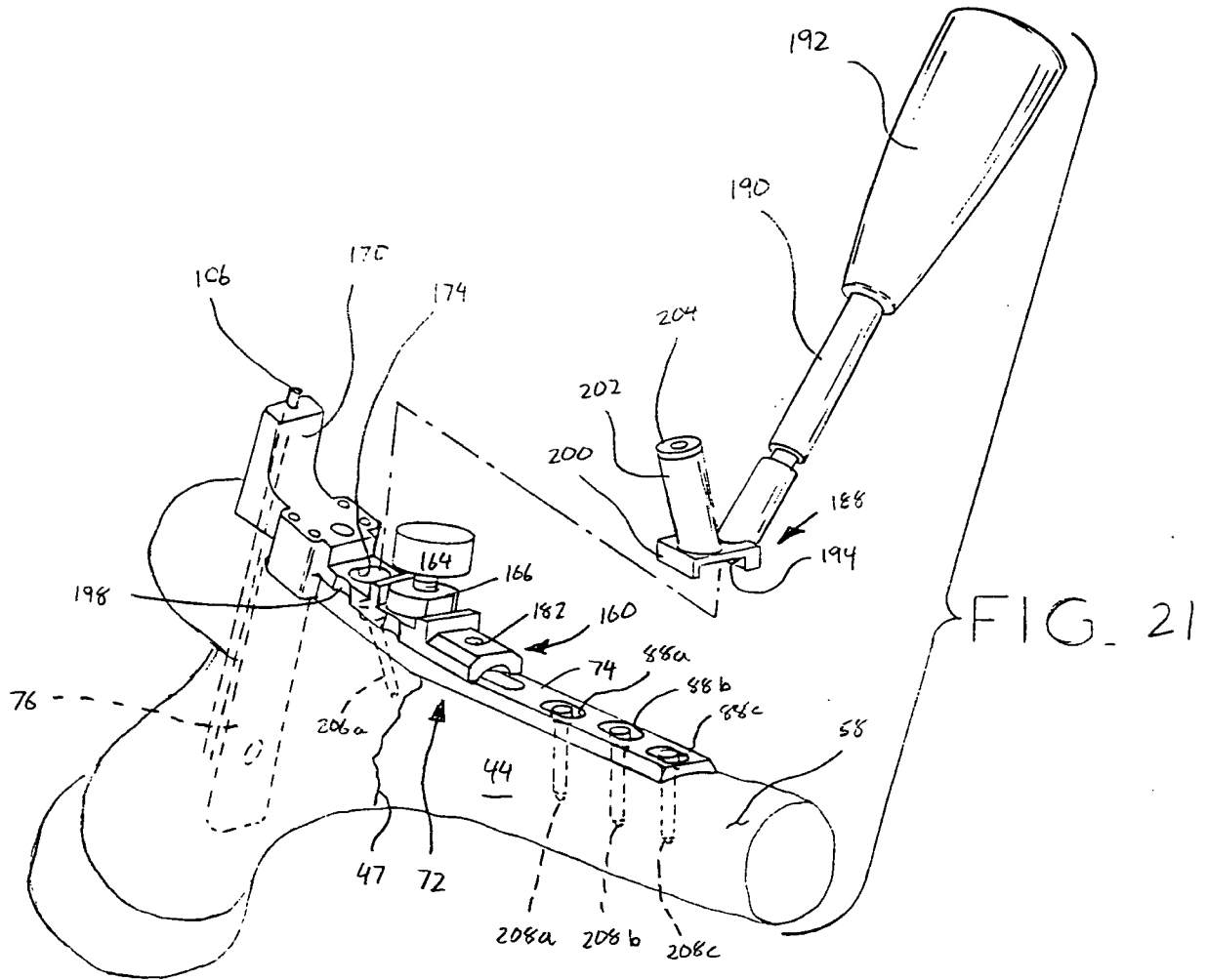


FIG. 22a



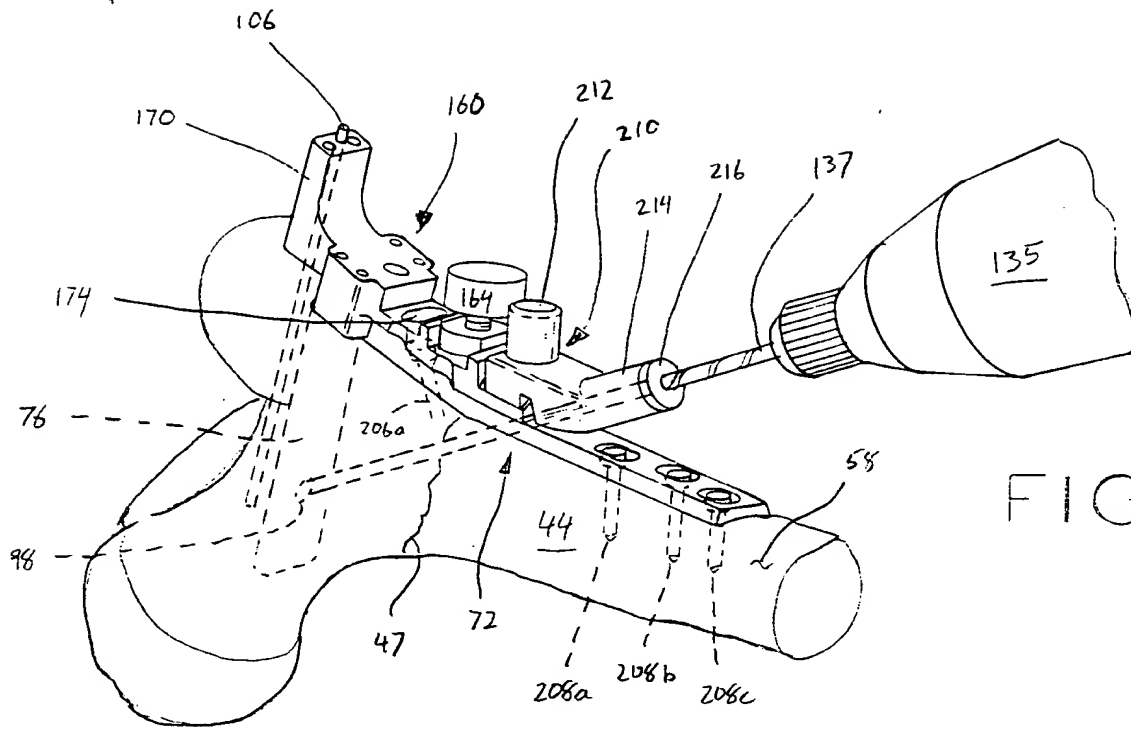


FIG. 23

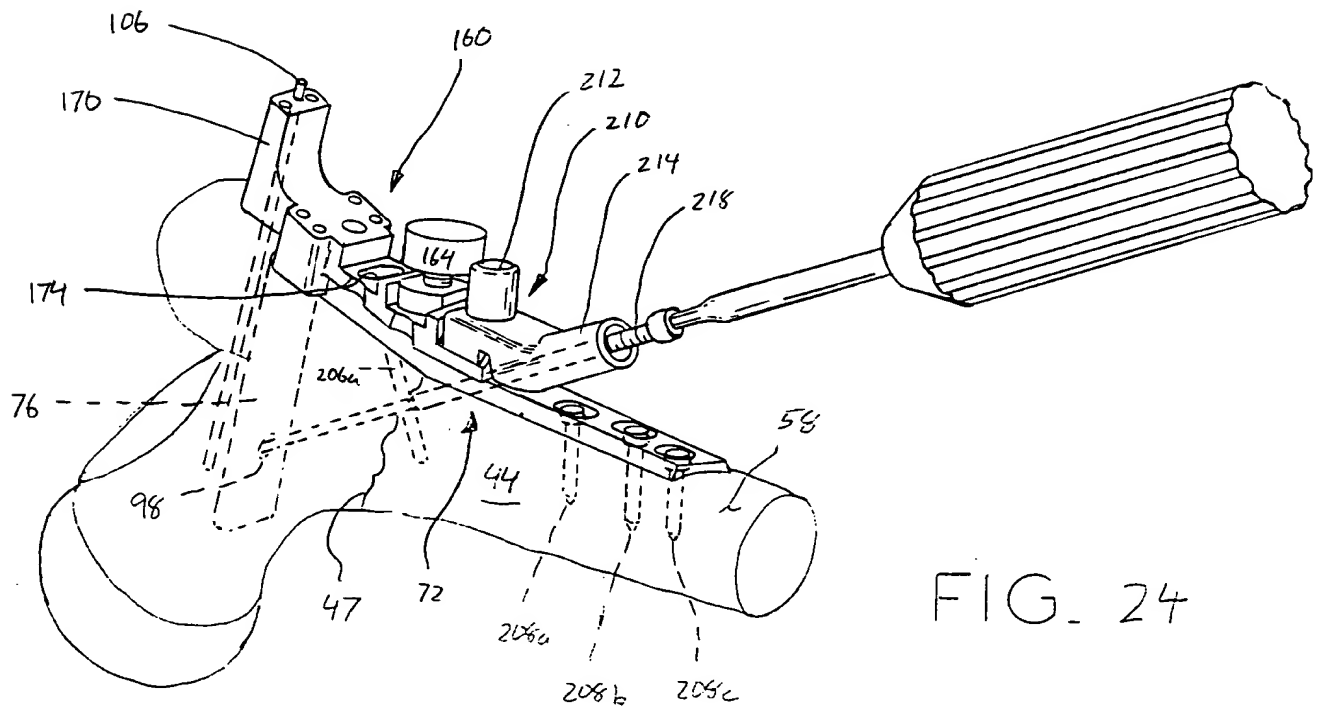


FIG. 24

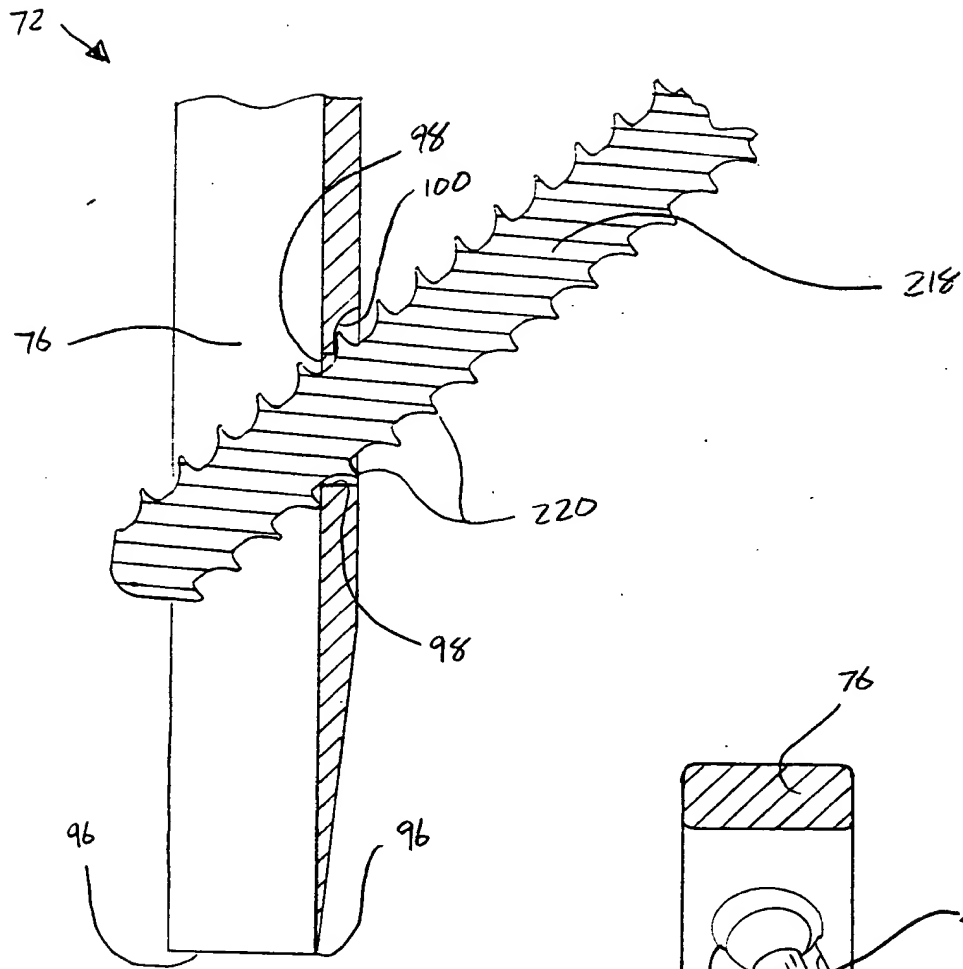


FIG. 25

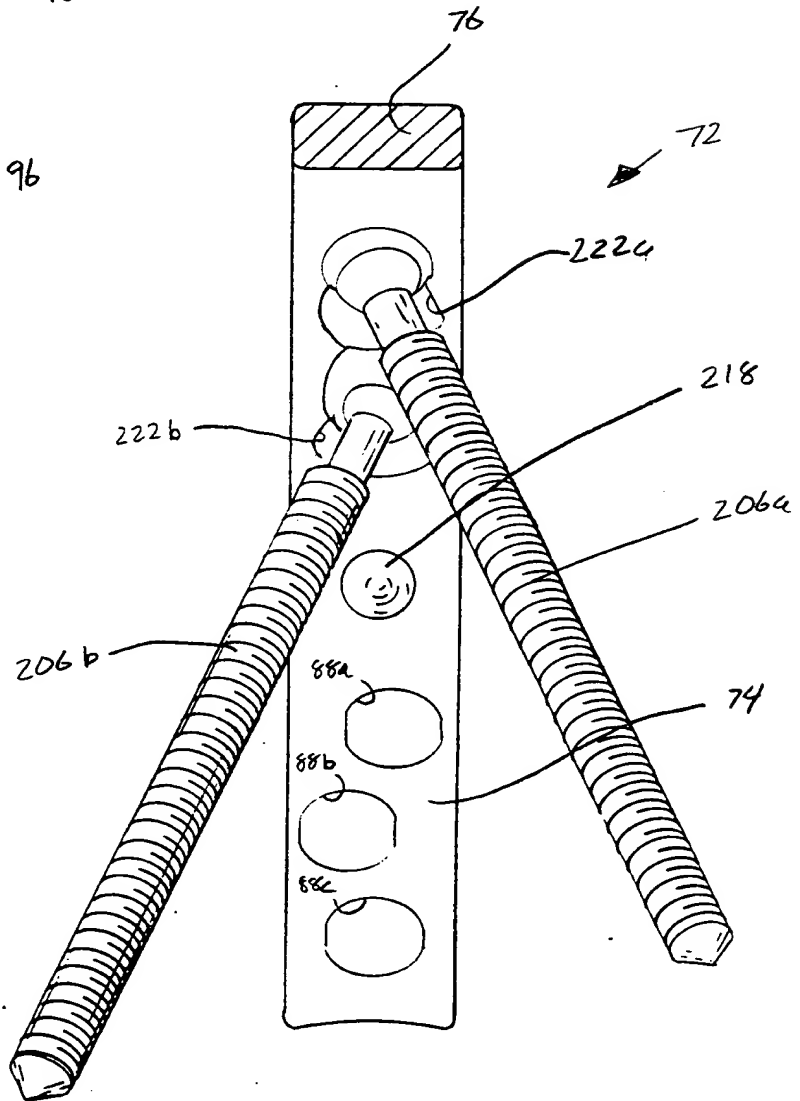


FIG. 26

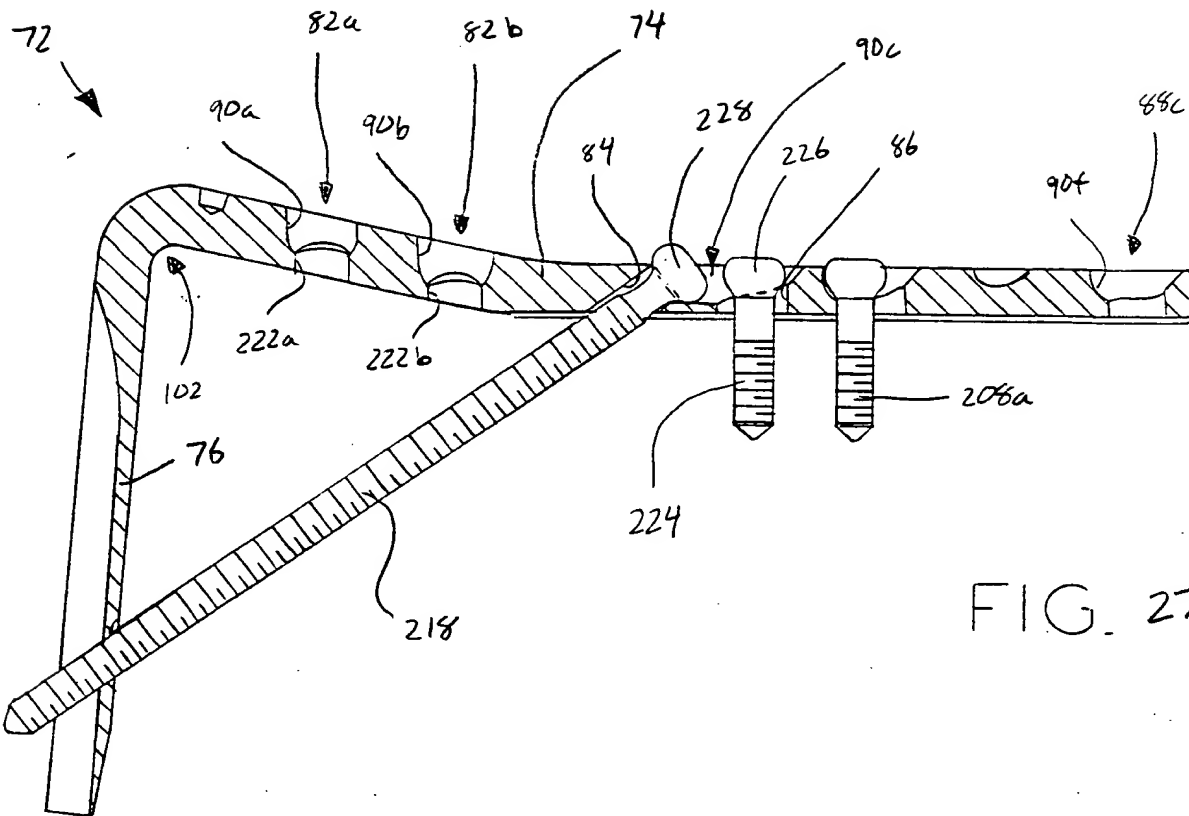


FIG. 27

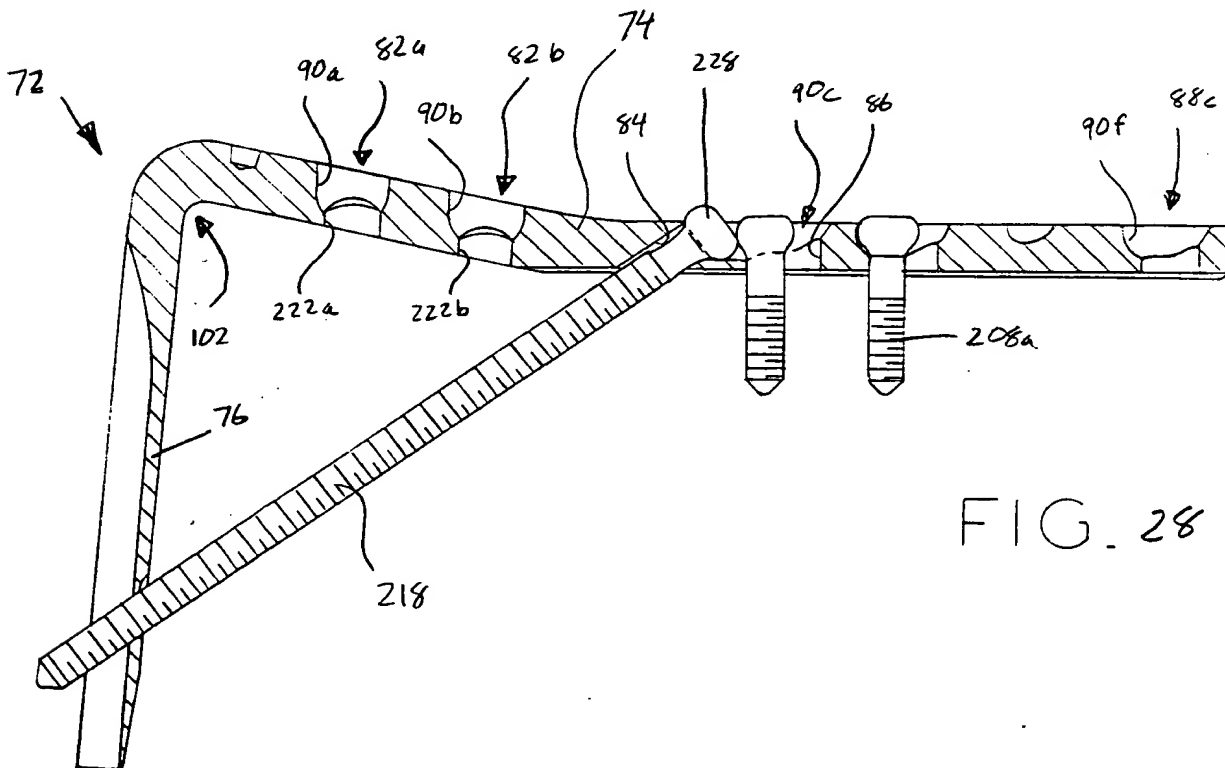
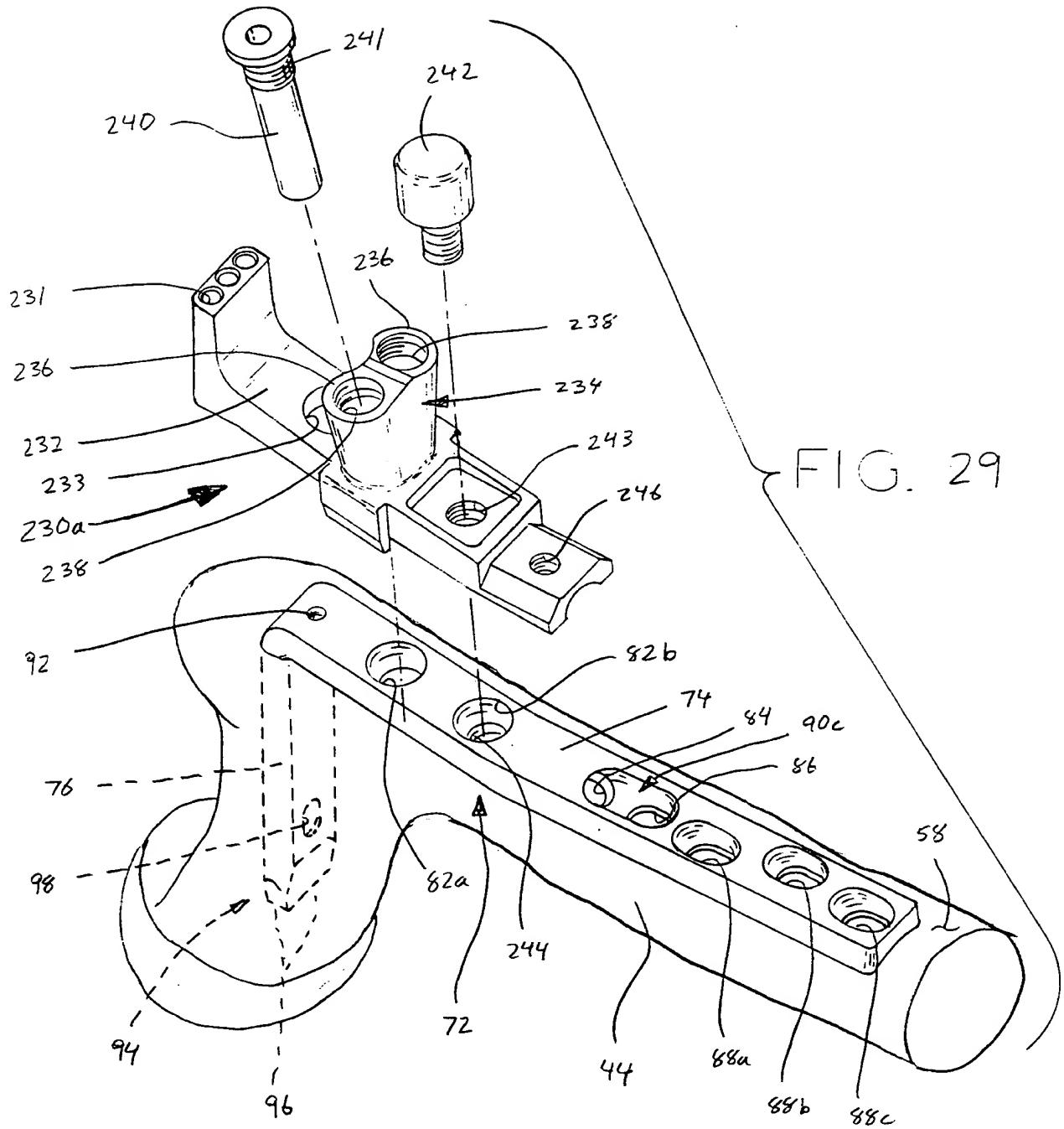
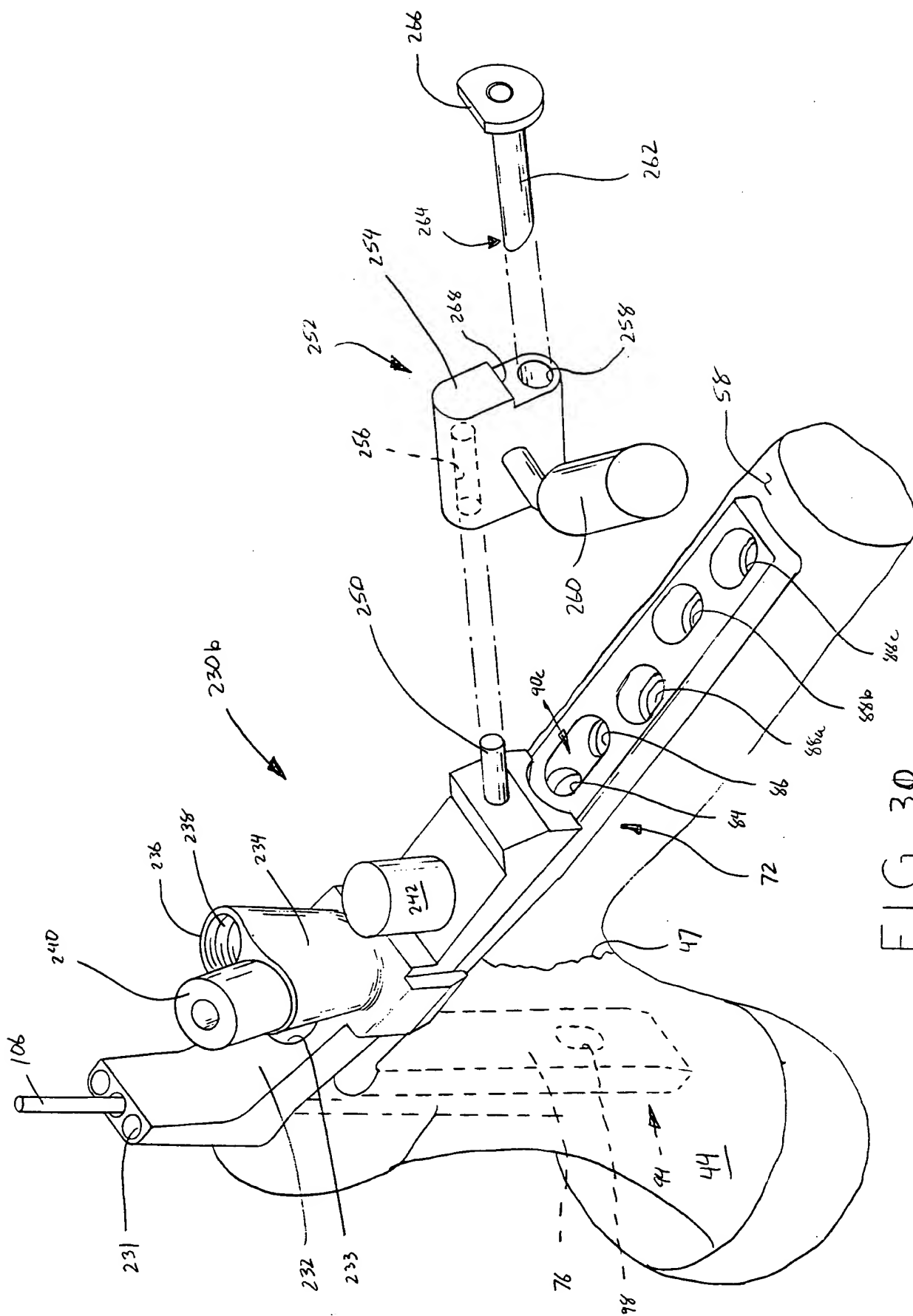


FIG. 28



**SECRET**



30

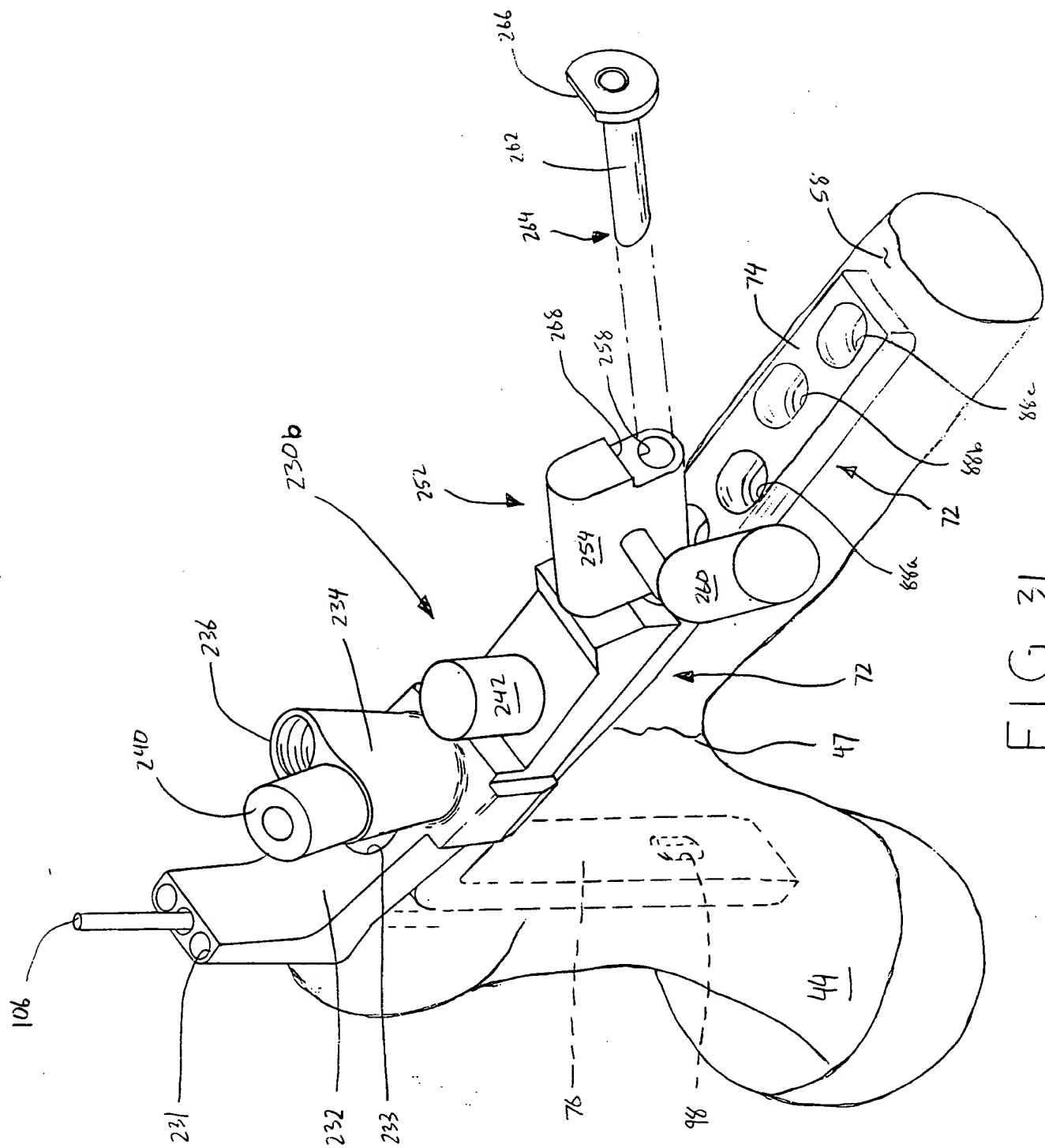


FIG. 31



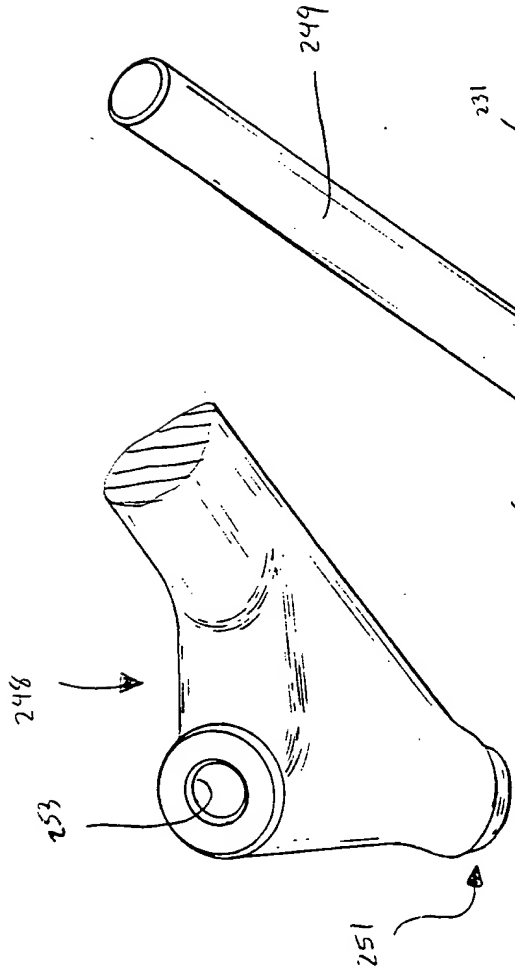


FIG. 33

FIG. 32

